

**700s 1600e PCE Plume Community Advisory Group  
(CAG)**

**Meeting Minutes**

June 9, 2022

Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

<b>Members Present:</b>	<b>Organization:</b>	<b>Members Present:</b>	<b>Organization:</b>
Rebecca Gerhart	EA Region 8 RPM	Barbara	Community Member
Scott Everett	Utah DEQ Project Manager	Robin	Community Member
Maureen Petit	Utah DEQ Project Manager		
Dave Allison	Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Environmental Response Community Involvement Coordinator		
Teresa Gray	SLC Public Utilities		
Briana Kistler	Engineer in Training in the Environmental Health and Safety Department for the University of Utah		
Paige Walton	A contractor with ERG. I Provide technical support to the VA CERCLA Program.		
Sharon Shultz	Contract Project Manager with ERG. We provide support to the VA CERCLA program.		
<b>Facilitator:</b>	<b>Organization:</b>		
Shannon Smith	VA CERCLA Program Manager		
Wynn John	VA CERCLA Technical Manager		
Susanne Fairclough	VA CERCLA Contracts Manager		

## Welcome (Slide 1)

Community Advisory Group  
Update

700S 1600E PCE Plume Superfund Site

9 JUNE 2022

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) helped facilitate the 700S 1600E Superfund Site Community Advisory Group (CAG) meeting on June 9, 2022. The subject of the discussion was an update on the progress of the site investigation and the information gathered and documented in the Remedial Investigation (RI) Report currently under review by EPA Region 8 (EPA) and the Utah Department of Environmental Quality (UDEQ).

### Veterans Health Administration – SLC VA Medical Center

Shannon Smith – Program Manager

Wynn John – Technical Manager

Susanne Fairclough – Contract Manager



## Background (Slide 2)

Introduction

Ms. Smith gave a summary of the Superfund site, an explanation of the VA's involvement, and a brief description of PCE and potential health concerns from long-term exposure.

- The SLC VAMC operated a dry-cleaning operation that used tetrachloroethylene (abbreviated as PCE) in the late 1970s and early 1980s.
- During this period, dry-cleaning residuals were likely disposed of into the sanitary sewer system which leaked into the ground.
- PCE-contaminated groundwater is present beneath the VAMC property and in areas downgradient, extending to approximately 1100 East.

### PCE

- PCE is a colorless liquid used for dry cleaning fabrics and degreasing metal equipment.
- Long-term exposure (longer than one year) to low levels of PCE can cause damage to the nervous system (neurotoxicity), vision issues, and cancer.

## Remedial Investigation Overview (Slide 3)

### Remedial Investigation Overview

#### CERCLA Process



Remedial Investigation was conducted from 2015-2021 to determine:

- Nature and extent of contamination
- Future fate and transport of contamination
- Potential risk to human health and the environment

Ms. Smith stated VA is still within the remedial investigation (RI) phase and which has been ongoing since 2015. Data collected over the years has been compiled into a Remedial Investigation Report and submitted to EPA and UDEQ for review.

Ms. Smith indicated that the RI process determines the nature and extent of contamination (where? and how much?). The RI also evaluates the future fate and transport of contamination (What's it doing? and Where's it going?). Additionally, the RI determines the potential risks to human health and the environment from the chemical release.

Ms. Smith then turned over the meeting to Wynn John, VA's CERCLA Technical Manager, to review the information found during the Remedial Investigation.

## Additional Indoor Air Sampling March 2022 (Slide 4)

### March 2022 Indoor Air Sampling Event

#### Outreach Efforts

- Social media posts (Instagram, Facebook, website)
- Mailed +300 postcards
- Approached 85 residences in person (two weekends, multiple efforts)
- Made face-to-face contact with 40 residents

#### Indoor Air Sampling

- Indoor air samples from the following:
  - 33 residential structures (28 new, 5 previously sampled)
  - The McGillis School and First Baptist Church

Based on discussions with EPA and UDEQ regarding the RI report, VA agreed to collect additional indoor air data to further evaluate the vapor intrusion risk. An indoor air sampling event was conducted in March 2022. VA reached out to area residents through social media via Instagram, Facebook, SLC Green, and the VA CERCLA website. Additionally, VA mailed over 300 postcards and approached 85 residents in person through a knocking-on-doors effort. Thirty-three (33) residents agreed to indoor air sampling. Twenty-eight (28) of the 33 locations were new to the indoor air sampling program).

## March 2022 Indoor Air Sampling Results (Slide 5)

### March 2022 Indoor Air Sampling Event

#### Results

- All samples had at least low-level detections of PCE
- Action Level exceedance:
  - 1 residence (TCE)
- All sample result letters mailed early June 2022

#### Exceedance Follow-on Sampling

- Result suggest chemical product in home
- Removed some products and resampled
- Placed two portable air purifiers in the home
- Ongoing sampling

Mr. John then discussed the sampling results, noting that all samples had low-level detections of PCE. One residence during the March 2022 event had an exceedance of the action level for TCE. The concentration detected suggests an in-home product. VA personnel removed several commercial cleaning products from the home and re-sampled the same areas. Test results haven't been received. However, VA placed two portable air purifiers in the home. There will be follow-up sampling in that home to identify the source.

## Summary of Indoor Air Efforts (Slide 6)



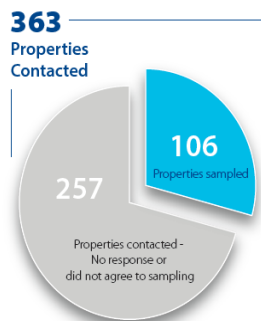
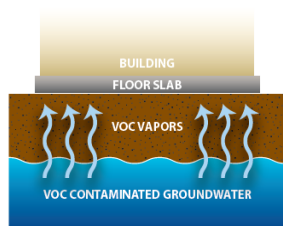
### 700 SOUTH 1600 EAST PCE PLUME SUPERFUND SITE Summary of Indoor Air Sampling Efforts

The Indoor Air Sampling Program has been ongoing since 2014. During that time VA used several methods to get the word out about sampling, including:

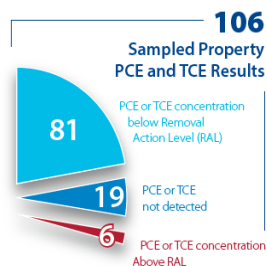


#### What is Vapor Intrusion?

Chemical vapors from contaminated groundwater evaporate and enter homes through cracks in basements or floor slabs.



- 6**  
Corrective Actions for Removal Action Level Exceedances
- 4** Removal Actions  
*Sealed floor cracks, checked floor drains, remove indoor sources, etc.*
  - 2** Ongoing Removal Actions  
*Air filtration*



#### GLOSSARY

PCE: Tetrachloroethene; dry cleaning chemical

TCE: Trichloroethene; PCE byproduct and common solvent

Removal Action Level (RAL): The level above which additional confirmation sampling will be conducted and, if deemed necessary, mitigation measures will be taken to reduce indoor air concentrations.

Ms. Smith continued the discussion regarding the VA's indoor air sampling program by presenting a summary of properties contacted (363). A total of 106 properties were sampled. Six of those properties exceeded the Removal Action Level (RAL). Four required simple resolutions to address the indoor air issue (i.e., sealing cracks in basement floors and removing indoor sources). The remaining two homes have received air filtration systems. Additionally, of the 106 homes sampled, 19 homes had no detections of PCE or TCE, and 81 homes had small amounts of PCE/TCE. Ms. Smith also explained how chemical vapors could enter homes through cracks in the foundation or cement slab.

Data from 2014-2022

→ Robin (Community Member) states: “People move out, and new people move in. I have found that new residents from 1400 East to Guardsman Way do not know about this program.”

Ms. Smith answered that VA contacted community councils and worked with them to put CAG notices for those areas on their Facebook page, hoping it would capture anybody new to the area. She noted that newcomers are an ongoing problem, and VA is open to suggestions on how to get the word out. Ms. Smith states that the VA PCE Plume website has good information about the program and how to contact the CERCLA team. VA is happy to meet with anybody and answer any questions.

Mr. John added that Robin’s home is on the edge of the plume boundary and study area; therefore, a postcard may not have been mailed to her home. The homes in question are either right on or outside of the boundary.

### Next Steps (Slide 7)



## Next Steps

### Feasibility Study

- The process of developing, screening, and evaluating remedial action alternatives
  - Focus will be on risks identified in RI
  - May involve additional data collection

➔ Proposed Plan, Record of Decision and Construction

Ms. Smith presents the next slide regarding the Feasibility Study (FS) process. The FS is where VA will evaluate different treatment alternatives for groundwater contamination. This study will be ongoing for at least two years as the team works through the technologies that will work best for this residential area. The VA will likely undertake small-scale construction of a potential remedy (pilot study) to see if it is successful before a large amount of capital is invested into a long-term remedy. VA will be providing the community with details of the process and information as the study progresses. This information will be presented to the public in the form of a Proposed Plan - this is when the community can ask questions and interact with the VA and the regulatory agencies before any treatment begins. Once the Proposed Plan is approved, and the remedy has been determined the Record of Decision for the site is completed which documents VA’s requirements for addressing the contamination.

## Upcoming Fieldwork

- Groundwater sampling June 2022
- Groundwater sampling Fall 2022

Ms. Smith states that the next fieldwork events are two rounds of groundwater sampling, one in June 2022 (ongoing currently) and one in the fall of 2022. This sampling helps to understand plume concentrations and identify the baseline concentrations at the site before starting any treatment process. The groundwater sampling also assists VA monitor and track the plume over time. It is for this reason that the groundwater sampling events will continue.

## Next Meeting and Questions

Next Meeting: December 8, 2022

Agenda items for next meeting?

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